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AMENDMENTS TO THE 1928 CONVENTION CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS, AS AMENDED

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION OF NOVEMBER 22, 1928, CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS, AS AMENDED (TIAS SERIES 6548, 6549, 9948, AND TREATY DOC. NO. 98–1)

MARCH 20, 1990.—Amendments were read the first time, and together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 20, 1990.*

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith amendments to the Convention of November 22, 1928, concerning International Expositions, as amended (Treaties and other International Acts Series 6548, 6549, 9948, and Treaty Doc. No. 98–1), with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to their acceptance. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Secretary of State on the amendments.

The main purposes of these amendments are: to halt the proliferation of world fairs by requiring 5-year intervals between such expositions, beginning in 1995; to establish a single category of "registered" international expositions (world fairs); and to create a new category of "recognized" international expositions.

I strongly support these amendments to the Convention concerning International Expositions, as amended, and recommend that the Senate give prompt consideration to the amendments and advise and consent to their acceptance.

GEORGE BUSH.

LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 8, 1990.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

THE PRESIDENT: I have the honor to submit to you, with a view to transmission to the Senate for advice and consent to acceptance, amendments to the Convention of November 22, 1928 concerning International Expositions, as amended, (6548, 6549, 9948, and Treaty Doc. No. 98–1).

On May 31, 1988, the General Assembly of the Bureau of International Expositions, meeting in Paris, approved amendments to the Convention concerning International Expositions, as amended. These amendments have as their main purposes: to halt the proliferation of world fairs by requiring five year intervals between such expositions, beginning in 1995; to establish a single category of "registered" international expositions; and to create a new category of "recognized" international expositions. In addition, certain other amendments of a minor nature were approved.

"Registered" expositions would be those approved by the International Expositions Bureau which would encompass expositions not less than six weeks or more than six months in duration and take place generally at five year intervals. "Recognized" expositions would be those approved by the International Expositions Bureau which would encompass expositions of not less than three weeks or more than three months in duration, illustrate a specific theme and be restricted to 25 hectares surface area. The main amendments (Articles I, II, III) are set forth below, followed by explanatory Comments. The other amendments (Articles IV, V, VI) are consequential in nature.

ARTICLE I

Article 2 of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, shall be supplemented by a second paragraph reading as follows:

"Regardless of the title that may be given to an exposition by its organizers, this Convention makes a distinction between registered expositions and recognized expositions."

Comment: The effect of this amendment is to establish two categories of expositions, "registered" and "recognized". This provision is to be read in conjunction with the amendment which follows relating to the rescission of the old Article 3.

ARTICLE II

Article 3 of Section I and Articles 4 and 5 constituting Section II of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, are hereby rescinded and replaced by the following provisions which shall constitute the new Section II, the title of which shall become "General Conditions for the Organization of International Expositions":

Article 3: International expositions shall be eligible to be registered by the International Expositions Bureau , referred to in Article 25 below, which have the following characteristics:

(a) The duration of the expositions shall not be less than six weeks or more than six months;

(b) The arrangements for the exposition buildings used by the participating States shall be prescribed by the General Regulations of the exposition. If a real property tax is payable under the law of the inviting State, it shall be borne by the organizers. Payment may be made only for services actually rendered in application of the regulations approved by the Bureau;

(c) Beginning on January 1, 1995, the interval between two registered expositions shall be at least five years: the first exposition may take place in 1995. Nevertheless, the International Expositions Bureau may allow an exposition to be held at most one year earlier than the date resulting from the foregoing provision, in order to allow the celebration of a particular event of international importance, without, however, the five-year interval between expositions established by the original timetable being changed.

Comment: The existing Article 3, which is to be replaced, established a distinction between "universal" and "specialized" expositions which was found unworkable. The new Section II, entitled "General Conditions for the Organization of International Expositions," supplants completely the old Section II, entitled "Duration and Frequency of Expositions." The new Section II consists of new Articles 3, 4, and 5 dealing mainly with the characteristics of "registered" and "recognized" expositions.

Article 3 sets forth the characteristics of "registered" expositions. Their duration shall be from six weeks to six months and any real property tax shall be borne by the organizers who shall also only seek payment for services actually rendered. The main provision, however, is that registered expositions must be held at 5 year intervals, beginning in 1995, except that an exposition may be held at a four year interval to celebrate an event of international significance. The previous provision in old Article 5 allowing the General Assembly by a two-thirds vote, in exceptional circumstances, to shorten any prescribed intervals, has been superseded.

Article 4:

(a) International expositions shall be eligible to be recognized by the International Expositions Bureau which have the following characteristics:

(1) The duration of the expositions shall not be less than three weeks or more than three months;

(2) They shall illustrate a specific theme:

(3) Their total surface area shall not exceed 25 hectares;

(4) They shall allot sites built by the organizer to the participating States, free of any payment of rent, charges, taxes, and costs other than those representing services rendered; the largest site provided to a State shall not exceed 1,000 m2. Nevertheless, the International Expositions Bureau may authorize an exemption from the obligation to provide the sites free of payment if the economic and financial situation of the organizing State so warrants;

(5) Only one exposition recognized in accordance with the present paragraph (a) may be held between two registered expositions;

(6) Only one exposition registered or recognized in accordance with the present paragraph (a) may be held in the course of the same year.

(b) The International Expositions Bureau may also grant its recognition to:

(1) The Decorative Arts and Modern Architecture exposition of the Triennale de Milan, because of its historical precedence and as long as it retains its original characteristics;

(2) Type Al horticultural expositions accepted by the International Association of Horticultural Producers, provided that a minimum interval of two years elapses between them in different States, and a minimum of ten years in the same State;

when they are scheduled to be held in the interval between two registered expositions.

Comment: Article 4 sets forth the characteristics of "recognized" expositions. Their duration is from three weeks to three months; they must have a specific theme and their surface area is limited. In general, the organizers shall provide built up sites free of rent, charges, taxes, etc. Only one recognized exposition shall be held between two registered expositions, but not in the same year as a registered exposition. Special provisions have been grandfathered in for a certain Milan exposition and for a certain horticultural exposition, but these two expositions must be scheduled to take place in the interval between two registered expositions. Recognized expositions are a new category and they bear some relation to the previous specialized expositions but are more limited in their characteristics.

Article 5: The opening and closing dates of an exposition and its general characteristics shall be fixed at the time of its registration or recognition and may not be changed except with the consent of the International Expositions Bureau.

Comment: Article 5 follows old Article 4(2) in fixing the opening and closing dates of expositions but covers also recognized expositions and the fixing of general characteristics.

ARTICLE III

Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, are hereby rescinded.

Comment: The last two sentences of existing Article 15, dealing with real property taxes and payment for services, are included in

new Article 3(b). The other provisions of Articles 14 and 15 are superseded by the improved provisions of Article 3(b) and Article 4(a)(4).

In order for the proposed amendments to enter into force for all the Contracting Parties, under Article 33(3) four-fifths of the Contracting Parties must have notified the French Government of their acceptance. At present 35 acceptances are required.

I recommend that you transmit the proposed amendments to the Senate with a request for expeditious action so that the United States Government may be in a position to notify the French Government of the United States acceptance of the amendments to the November 22, 1928 Convention concerning International Expositions, as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. BAKER III.

[Translation, LS No. 127841-A, EL/JF, French]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES,
Washington, October 4, 1988.

No. 184/DE.

EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Embassy of France presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to submit to it for acceptance an amendment to the November 22, 1928 Convention Concerning International Expositions.

On May 31, 1988, the General Assembly of the International Expositions Bureau adopted this amendment to the 1928 Convention, as amended and supplemented by the 1948, 1966, and 1972 protocols and by the amendment of June 24, 1982.

Under Article 33 of the above-mentioned Convention:

"Any draft amendment adopted by the General Assembly under the conditions prescribed in the preceding paragraph and in Article 28 shall be submitted by the Government of the French Republic for acceptance by all the Contracting Parties. It shall enter into force for all the Contracting Parties on the date on which four-fifths of them have notified the Government of the French Republic of their acceptence."

The Embassy of France points out to the Department of State that acceptance of this amendment may take place simply by a letter of acceptance.

[Complimentary close]

[Initialed]
[Embassy stamp]

[International Expositions Bureau, LS No. 127841-B]

AMENDMENT TO THE CONVENTION OF NOVEMBER 22, 1928, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED BY THE PROTOCOLS OF MAY 10, 1948, NOVEMBER 16, 1966, AND NOVEMBER 30, 1972, AND BY THE AMENDMENT OF JUNE 24, 1982, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON MAY 31, 1988

The General Assembly of the B.I.E., meeting on May 31, 1988.

Considering that the rules and procedures established by the Convention concerning International Expositions, which was signed at Paris on November 22, 1928, as amended and supplemented by the Protocols of May 10, 1948, November 16, 1966, and November 30, 1972, and by the Amendment of June 24, 1982, have proved useful and necessary for the organizers of such expositions and for the participating States;

Desiring to adapt to the conditions of modern endeavor the aforesaid rules and procedures,

Has decided, in accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, to amend certain rules and procedures concerning international expositions as follows:

ARTICLE I

Article 2 of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, shall be supplemented by a second paragraph reading as follows:

"Regardless of the title that may be given to an exposition by its organizers, this Convention makes a distinction between registered expositions and recognized expositions."

ARTICLE II

Article 3 of Section I and Articles 4 and 5 constituting Section II of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, are hereby rescinded and replaced by the following provisions which shall constitute the new Section II, the title of which shall become "General Conditions for the Organization of International Expositions":

Article 3: International expositions shall be eligible to be registered by the International Expositions Bureau, referred to in Article 25 below, which have the following characteristics:

(a) The duration of the expositions shall not be less than six weeks or more than six months;

(b) The arrangements for the exposition buildings used by the participating States shall be prescribed by the General Regulations of the exposition. If a real property tax is payable under the law of the inviting State, it shall be borne by the organizers. Payment may be made only for services actually rendered in application of the regulations approved by the Bureau;

(c) Beginning on January 1, 1995, the interval between two registered expositions shall be at least five years; the first exposition may take place in 1995. Nevertheless, the International Expositions Bureau may allow an exposition to be held at most one year earlier than the date resulting from the foregoing provision, in order to allow the celebration of a particular event of international importance, without, however, the five-year interval between expositions established by the original timetable being changed.

Article 4:

(a) International expositions shall be eligible to be recognized by the International Expositions Bureau which have the following characteristics:

(1) The duration of the expositions shall not be less than three weeks or more than three months;

(2) They shall illustrate a specific theme;

(3) Their total surface area shall not exceed 25 hectares;

(4) They shall allot sites built by the organizer to the participating States, free of any payment of rent, charges, taxes, and costs other than those representing services rendered; the largest site provided to a State shall not exceed 1000 m^2. Nevertheless, the International Expositions Bureau may authorize an exemption from the obligation to

provide the sites free of payment if the economic and financial situation of the organizing State so warrants.

(5) Only one exposition recognized in accordance with the present paragraph (a) may be held between two registered expositions.

(6) Only one exposition registered or recognized in accordance with the present paragraph (a) may be held in the course of the same year.

(b) The International Expositions Bureau may also grant its recognition to:

(1) the Decorative Arts and Modern Architecture exposition of the Triennale de Milan, because of its historical precedence and as long as it retains its original characteristics;

(2) type A1 horticultural expositions accepted by the International Association of Horticultural Producers, provided that a minimum interval of 2 years elapses between them in different States, and a minimum of 10 years in the same State;

when they are scheduled to be held in the interval between two registered expositions.

Article 5: The opening and closing dates of an exposition and its general characteristics shall be fixed at the time of its registration or recognition and may not be changed except with the consent of the B.I.E.

ARTICLE III

Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, are hereby rescinded.

ARTICLE IV

In the first sentence of Article 8 of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, replace "Article 4" with "Article 5."

ARTICLE V [1]

(1) In Article 12 of the Convention of November 22, 1928, as amended, between the words "a Commissioner General of the exposition" and the words "to represent it," insert "in the case of a registered exposition, or a Commissioner of the exposition in the case of a recognized exposition."

(2) In the first sentence of Article 13, between the words "a Section Commissioner General" and the words "to serve as its representative." insert the words "in the case of a registered exposition, or a Section Commissioner in the case of a recognized exposition."

In the second sentence of Article 13, between the words "the Section Commissioner General" and the words "alone shall be responsible," insert the words "or the Section Commissioner."

In the third sentence of Article 13, between the words "the Commissioner General of the exposition" and the words "of the composition," insert the words "or the Commissioner of the exposition."

[1] Certain amendments in Articles V and VI vary in language from the French but will bring about an equivalent meaning.

(3) In Article 17, between the words "of Commissioners General" and the word "appointed," insert the words "or Commissioners."

(4) In Article 18(1), between the words "Section Commissioner General" and the word "representing," insert the words "or Section Commissioner."

In Article 18(2), between the words "the Commissioner General" and the words "of that exposition," insert the words "or Commissioner."

(5) In Article 19(2), between the words "Commissioners General" and the words "of the other States," insert the words "or Commissioners."

In Article 19(3), insert the words "or Section Commissioners" between the words "Section Commissioners General" and the words "acting as a body."

(6) In Article 20(1)(c), between the words "of the Commissioners General" and the words "in their respective sections," insert the words "or Commissioners."

In Article 20(2), between the words "the Commissioner General" and the words "of the exposition," insert the words "or Commissioner."

(7) In Article 21, between the words "the Commissioner General" and the words "of the exposition," insert the words "or Commissioner."

ARTICLE VI [1]

(1) After the word "registration," add the words "or recognition" in the following:

Article 6(1), second sentence;
Article 6(4);
Article 7(1);
Article 8, first sentence.

(2) After the word "registration," add the words "or recognition" in the following:

Article 11(3);
Article 20(1).

(3) After the word "registration," add the words "or recognition" in the following:

Article 6(2);
Article 6(3);
Article 30(2)(b).

(4) In the first sentence of Article 8, after the words "such registration," add the words "or such recognition."

(5) In the first sentence of Article 6(1), after the words "for its registration," add the words "or such recognition."

(6) In Article 27(a), after the words "the registration," add the words "or recognition."

(7) After the words "registered," or "registration," add the words "or recognized" or "or recognition," as the case may be, in the following:

Article 9(1);
Article 9(2);
Article 28(3)(e).

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[1]Certain amendments in Articles V and VI vary in language from the French but will bring about an equivalent meaning.

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